

NSC review completed

2 November 1971

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: 2 November 1971 Saigon Station Message on
Prisoner Exchange Overture

REFERENCE: 30 October Message, Same Subject

1. Per para one ref, Col. Binh met with President Thieu morning 30 October to obtain latter's approval [redacted] President told Col. Binh he did not want to make firm commitment at that time; he wanted mull matter over further; but generally he was favorably inclined [redacted] In view of President's exceedingly busy inaugural schedule President asked Col. Binh to see him on 2 November.

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2. We saw Col. Binh morning 2 November at which time Col. Binh said that he understood urgency of getting decision soonest from President and expected to see President on afternoon 2 November. Col. Binh was able see President in late afternoon and he reported results of this meeting in following terms:

A. President agrees to one for one exchange.

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C. President agrees that we should request NLF to furnish us with complete current listing of all American and foreign prisoners including SVN officers who are held by NLF.

DPMO review(s) completed.

State Dept. review completed

SECRET/[redacted]

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D. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] President suggested that if any comment had to be made on exchange question then innocuous phrase such as "another appropriate person has been exchanged. . . . " is all that should be included in any press release referring to swap. [REDACTED]

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3. As of 1900 hours Saigon time 2 November no telephone call has been received from [REDACTED] representative.

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4. Ambassador Bunker has been fully briefed on above developments.

SECRET [REDACTED]

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